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# Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 30 | Min 21 | Humidity 79% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 65,995 | Nifty 19,653 | Gold 57,230 | Silver 70,600 | Dollar 83.24 | Euro 87.52 | GBP 101.29

## BBMP floats tender for long awaited enumeration of trees in city, covering an area of 9761.6 sq km, in 8 zones

# ONE, TWO, TREE...

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> "It will not be a biodiversity study and will record only 5 parameters - girth, unique tree ID, species name, GPS location, photograph
> — BLG Swamy, DCF, forest dept, BBMP

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has finally set the ball rolling for the much-awaited tree census of Bengaluru.

The civic agency, after a delay of more than four years, has floated the tender for the enumeration of an estimated 20.8 lakh trees in the city, covering an area of 9761.6 sq km.

The fund allocated for the project, expected to be completed within six months, is a little over Rs 3.74 crore.

To carry out the process, Bengaluru has been divided into eight zones of approximately 1,000 sq km area each.

"The total amount set aside for the project is Rs 4 crore, of which, we have utilised Rs 16 lakh in developing the application for the census with the help of Karnataka Remote Sensing Agency. Since we

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

## 'Chip not hip'

Activists say no to microchips on stray dogs

CITY PAGE 4

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Crocin Drops
Baby
PEPPERMINT FLAVOUR
Crocin 240
4 - 12 years | 10 - 45 kg
Crocin 120
1 - 4 years | 10 - 20 kg
Crocin drops
0 - 1 year | 3.8 - 10 kg
*Starts to work in 15 minutes [Wilson et al, 1982, PMID: 6980501; Wong et al, 2001, PMID: 11824173]. Creative visualization.
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## 3 THINGS TO DO

### 01 Exclusive show

Get your hands on some of the exclusive fashionable goods at Hi Life Exhibition, as it brings gorgeous designer wear, wedding ensembles, ethnic designs, every day fashion apparels, accessories, jewellery, and more.
**Where: The Lalit Ashok**
**When: until October 8; 10 am to 8 pm**

### 02 Play it write

Learn the art of playwriting through an amazing workshop, starting this month. The training is brought by Tahatto and is guided by award-winning playwright Prashanth Kumar Nair.
**Where: Online mode; When: Format 1: October 7 and 8; 3 pm to 5:30 pm, Format 2: October 7 to November 4**

### 03 Creative ideas

Get to explore some creative items such as decorative items, household materials, artefacts, and handicrafts from all over the country. The

exhibition-cum-sale at Bengaluru Utsava brings more than 75 stalls that display goods from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.
**Where: White House Convention Centre, HSR Layout; When: until October 9**

# Autumn vibes only

## Various neighbourhoods in city gear up to celebrate Durga Puja; pandals, decorated idols, Bengali delicacies, drum beats, and more to mark festivities

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Durga Puja pandals are going to be filled with huge and uniquely decorated idols, live performances by artists and bands, the famous Dhunuchi dance

It is the season of festivals in the city. As the city recently celebrated Ganeshotsav, and in fact, it is still being celebrated in many localities, now many residents welfare groups are planning for the Durga Puja. This festival is a huge part of Navaratri and is always celebrated with pomp and gaiety. It, also known as Durgotsava or Sharadotsav, is an annual Hindu festival originating in the Indian subcontinent that reveres and pays homage to the Hindu goddess Durga.

Various Bengali associations are preparing to welcome Goddess Durga in their own unique way. The pandals are going to be filled with huge and uniquely decorated idols, live performances by artists and bands, the famous Dhunuchi dance, Bengali delicacies, and many more, which will bring the spirit of Bengal's grand Durga Puja celebrations to Namma Bengaluru.

Sushmitha Dutta from Oikotan Hebbal Durgotsav, told Bangalore Mirror that this year, Oikotan is going to present World Peace as their theme. "The idol, specially made by artists from Kumartuli (the original place in Kolkata where idol makers dwell), will also epitomise the message of peace.

The unique festive spirit of Durga Puja at Oikotan Hebbal Durgotsav will come to life with a wide choice of Bengali delicacies in our food court, the sound of shankh dhwani, and the inimitable dhak beats," she said. Many other puja committees have set their festive plans in order to bring the essence of Bengal to life in Bengaluru.

Achintya Lal Roy from the Bengaluru Durga Puja Committee said, "The venue is abuzz with devotional fervour as patrons participate in the rituals of pushpanjali, prasad, and janabhog. The daily mahabhog will be prepared by Iskcon, Bengaluru."

> **"The idol, specially made by artists from Kumartuli, will also epitomise the message of peace**
> – Sushmitha Dutta

The puja visitors will also have the opportunity to admire magnificent pandals. Sourov Moitra from the Whitefield Cultural Association mentioned, "The most interesting part of this year's puja is the social responsibility that the association is taking up. Artists from an endangered village in West Bengal are decorating the entire pandal"

Priyanka Sinha Roy from BARSHA Durga Puja said, "Local artisans from Karnataka will be recreating the pandal experience from Kolkata."

Paulomi Choudhury of BinB Durgotsav said they were organising Durga Puja at Kalyani Kala Mandir by inviting Bengali rock band Cactuss to organise Bhog distribution. Tapan Dutta from the Jayamahal Cultural Association said, "The theme for this year will be traditional values alongside modernity. There will be a DJ Dandiya night as well."

# Tree census not scientific: Experts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

do not know how many trees are there in each zone, we have divided the funds equally among the eight zones. We are using the sanctioned scheduled rate by the Karnataka Forest Department to study a tree, which is Rs 18. We are aiming at enumerating 20 lakh trees and then estimating the total cost for the project based on the first leg. Once the exact amount is calculated, funds will be sanctioned immediately," said BLG Swamy, deputy conservator of forests, forest department, BBMP.

### Counting process

However, the census will be in a different avatar, deviating a bit from the full-fledged process as directed by the Karnataka High Court in 2019. According to the officials from the forest department of the BBMP, the census will focus on the number of trees in the city and will document only five parameters - girth, unique tree ID, species name, GPS location, and photograph - of each tree.

"We aim to count the number of trees in the city to ensure accountability. It will not be a biodiversity study and will record only five parameters," added Swamy.

City based environmentalists and tree experts said the approach is not scientific and not in line with Karnataka's High Court order passed in 2019.

"The idea behind conducting the census was multifold. It would not only provide the count of trees in Bengaluru but also equip us with other information such as type of tree species, crown spread, and growth rate given the soil condition, and so on. The census taken up by BBMP appears to be half-hearted. It is not a science-based census and thus not in line with the order passed by the Karnataka High Court," said C Nagarajaiah, professor and ex-head of the department of forestry and environmental science at the University of Agricultural Sciences (GKVK), Bengaluru.

Experts also raised concerns about the short duration of six months being allocated to complete the project. "Prima facie, it appears to be a hurried job. However, till we look at the tender document and details about the scope of this census, it will be difficult to offer any comment," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust.

### Research institutes ousted?

The civic agency's decision to float a tender for the project implies that research institutes such as the Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST) and the University of Agricultural Sciences (GKVK) will not make the grade for the process.

Interestingly, after the High Court directed the Palike to carry out Bengaluru's tree census in August 2019 as per the provisions of the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976, the civic agency had first reached out to IWST and then to GKVK to conduct the survey.

"We are a government research institute; we do not participate in a tender process. We can take up such projects only through nomination. When we were contacted for the project, we had planned to involve resident citizens at ward-level and prepare health cards for every tree along with counting the number of trees in the city. It was supposed to be a research-oriented project to create a civic movement and spread awareness among the citizens. However, the deal was closed soon after for reasons unknown," said Dr M P Singh, director, IWST.

# Biryani lovers unite!

## Biryani remains forever favourite food in Bengaluru; restaurants here have been known to serve variety

The city's biryani landscape is as diverse as its people, offering a lot of options to cater to every palate

Bengaluru is renowned for its cosmopolitan culture and diverse culinary scene. Among the various flavours and dishes that tantalise one's taste buds, biryani stands out as a forever favourite. People in Bengaluru really enjoy biryani, and there are a lot of different kinds to try, each with its own special taste.

The city's biryani landscape is as diverse as its people, offering a lot of options to cater to every palate. From the flavorful Hyderabadi biryani, known for its generous use of spices and marinated meat, to the aromatic Lucknowi biryani, famed for its fragrant saffron and tender meat, there is even the Andhra biryani that brings the fiery flavours of the south to the plate. While the Kolkata biryani delights with its delicate balance of sweet and savoury notes. The Malabar biryani also stands as one of the favourites that originates from the Malabar region of Kerala, combined with many spices, coconut, and small-grain rice. There's even a unique Bengaluru biryani called Donne Biryani, which is served in a special leaf bowl.

Biryani enthusiasts in Bengaluru are passionate about their favourite dish. "Biryani is not just food; it's an emotion. The layers of fragrant rice and succulent meat or vegetables, slow-cooked to perfection, tell us a story of amazing cooking," said Meenakshi Srinivas, a resident of Yelahanka who has to have different styles of Biryani at least three times a week.

> **When I take a bite of biryani, it's like a party of flavours in my mouth. The spices, the herbs, the tasty meat or veggies-it's a special experience**
>
> –Nishreen Ahmed

In Bengaluru, there are many restaurants and hotels that serve different kinds of biryani. Each biryani joint has its own secret blend of spices and cooking techniques, creating a unique identity that keeps diners coming back for more. Another South Indian favourite, Dindigul biryani, is loved by people of different cultures.

Biryani has a strong pepper flavour and is often prepared with tender pieces of meat. For vegetarians, the city offers a variety of options. Veg biryani is made with a mix of colourful vegetables, aromatic spices, and fragrant rice. It's equally delicious and flavorful. For seafood lovers, they can relish fish biryani, where pieces of fish are marinated and cooked with aromatic spices and rice.

Another biryani lover, Nishreen Ahmed, said, "When I take a bite of biryani, it's like a party of flavours in my mouth. The spices, the herbs, the tasty meat or veggies—it's a special experience you can't get from any other food."

# Don't settle for bland: Let's spice up

With the drop in temperature and rise in pollution levels, the chances of falling ill increase. However, the easiest way to avoid that is by following a healthy diet. You don't need to drastically change what you eat, though, just raid your kitchen and check out the spice counter. We have listed some common spices which act as superfoods and keep you healthy as the temperature dips. Read on:

**Cardamom**

Cardamom improves your digestive system by stimulating the secretion of bile acid in the stomach. It boosts metabolism and has anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. It also helps stop gastrointestinal diseases such as acid reflux, heartburn, diarrhea, etc., and is good for your heart.

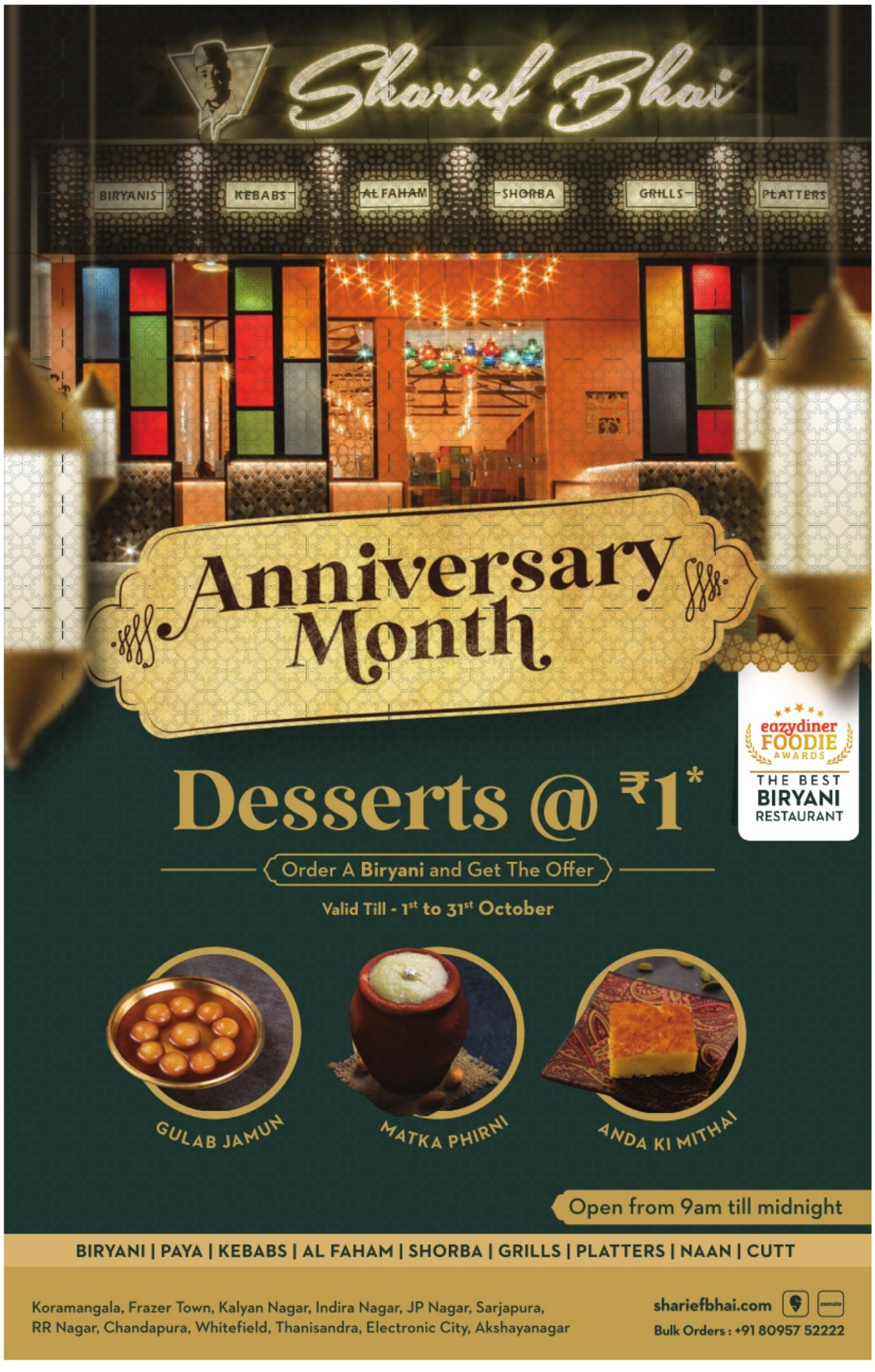
**Saffron**

Saffron comes with a host of health benefits. It can protect you against cancer, due to the presence of the carotene crocin.

**Turmeric**

Turmeric can help reduce bloating.

–Femina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# 'Processing' homelessness

Arrival and departure — these are words that may sound obsolete in the digital plane where you somehow do not truly arrive or depart at any point.

However, at some level, you do too, come to think of it; yes, one of those absurdities of the tech scape.

In the physical plane, it's great to be back, or so you think, when you arrive after a long break at a familiar setting: this could be anywhere - for instance, your homeland, school, college, ancestral dwelling or among a community or at a place of work you thought you belonged.

But oftentimes it so happens that sooner than you realise the place turns hostile to your presence all of a sudden. Surely many of us - a certain lot - are left then with that feeling of alienation amongst one's own — a terrible state to be in no doubt.

It is not as though the rest of the persons in the specific place or setting truly belonged there either - do not be mistaken. It is after all a survival tactic or pact in most cases, to eject the foreign body that just entered the errant mob's domain. Now this has far reaching implications and ramifications in the digital arena.

So what does the word 'belong' mean in today's digital cacophony? Where do you belong? Nowhere? Do you belong to the digital echo chamber? Definitely you do not. Or are we gradually being deprived of our sense of belonging courtesy of big tech? Perhaps the latter is closest to the truth. How so, you may ask.

To understand this conundrum, at loggerheads with the progress of the collective today, we may have to begin almost two decades ago when information bombardment began by the way of computers, gadgets, and eventually smartphones and other so-called smart handheld devices, up until the arrival of AI just recently.

Perhaps what was conveniently overlooked in this span of time is how much digital information can the individual human brain process at any given point, which brings us to the word 'processing' which resonates much in today's digital parlance.

'Processing', or negotiating to be precise, forget about gleaning or making sense of it all nevertheless, such vast information flow in the physical setting alongside in the digital playground has alienated/overwhelmed the individual in time from the comforts of society. Sadly enough this aspect is helping big tech to profiteer.

While this massive social transformation is underway triggered by big tech, we have socio-cultural bonds that have helped raise civilisations, nation states, communities, religions/sects, cities, towns, villages and the smallest of social link - the family - at stake with heads tilted toward the handheld device for conformation on anything and everything.

Humanity is sort of stuck in the 'in-between' or at the so-called intersection of tech and society if you want to sound suave — not really belonging in either of these spaces. This is an immensely critical moment for the collective.

Perhaps that is why the sense of alienation is at a heightened state today where the fight or flight trigger is on standby. The ever growing distances between individuals in a social setting have only helped big tech make money while gnawing at the foundations of society.

In fact we only have a small window to course-correct and reclaim what's been lost in the past two decades - the human-to-human connections decimated by the vagaries of tech. On top of it, when the rhythm of the planet skips a beat and reorients itself to adapt to the rapidly evolving dynamics in the flux of the climate emergency, the last thing we need is a disjointed socio-political discourse propped up by big tech to shortchange individuals with parlour tricks such as NFTs, AI-created art and so forth.

Most importantly, the appalling thing is, the so-called statesmen of the world would have tech in a perpetual policy and regulatory blur so that it can be tweaked at will to suit big tech fixers' agendas to stay on and loot the data and privacy of the people each day.

The individual today is homeless. They cannot feel at home in the digital echo chambers where they revel in the bravado of anonymity nor in the physical setting they call home whilst lost in purely transactional relationships patronised and perpetuated by big tech with its therapeutic approach to life and life's primordial links with the natural world that it claims to understand. Wonder how a 20-odd-year-old technology could claim it can resolve the meaning of life, universe and everything.

The sooner we restore the lost personal links starting at the family unit the better, or else tech would continue to run roughshod until it has destroyed every remaining organic social connection that defines humanness.

# A chip over its shoulder

## Using microchips to monitor strays would be a disaster, warn activists as BBMP itself seems unable to make up its mind

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The sudden U-turn of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on a pilot project of employing microchips to monitor stray dogs and geotagging them has confused animal activists. The fog of confusion has spread because of the different stands taken by two BBMP officers on microchipping and geotagging strays.

If the BBMP goes ahead with microchipping the around three lakh stray dogs in the city, it needs Rs 6 crore and it has to spend Rs 3 crore if it chooses geotagging. Each microchip costs Rs 200 and geotag costs Rs 100.

The BBMP Animal Husbandry Joint Director, in a letter on September 27 to State Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Chief Veterinary Officer (Mobile & Extension) Dr Prayag HS, stated that the BBMP rejects the proposal submitted by Dr Prayag on collaboration for QR-based geotagging. Bangalore Mirror has a copy of the letter. The proposal was submitted to the BBMP Animal Husbandry Department on September 22.

The Joint Director of Animal Husbandry Department, in the letter, claimed that the BBMP does ABC-ARV programme under BBMP limits and the animal husbandry department has some programmes other than geotagging.

"You are not allowed to use stray dogs for geotagging experimentation. Experimenting on stray dogs is not allowed. Hence you are hereby instructed not to conduct pilot study of geotagging using stray dogs for experimentation. Violating our instruction will initiate legal procedure," the Joint Director of Animal Husbandry said in the letter.

However, within eight days of this refusal, BBMP Special Commissioner (Health) KV Thrilok Chandra, said the BBMP Animal Husbandry Department has started a pilot project for employing microchips to monitor stray dogs. Thrilok Chandra said the BBMP has tied up with a private agency to microchip 100 dogs and geotag 200 dogs.

There are said to be around 3 lakh stray dogs in the city

### Against norms

Animal activists are up in arms against the BBMP as it is against the norms they said. According to Rule 8(2) of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2022, the local authority is responsible for deworming, immunisation, and sterilisation of stray dogs. "Microchipping dogs is also a waste of tax-payers' money. I oppose it as it is not safe for strays," said Arun Prasad, animal activist.

Dr Prayag said there is no provision under ABC Rules 2023 for local authorities to use microchipping in ABC programmes. "Under Rule 8(1)(e) of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Dog Breeding and Marketing ) Rules 2017, microchipping is mandatory for breeders when pups are sold by them," said Dr Prayag. Stating that microchipping needs more money, Satish Rao, an animal welfare and social worker from Indiranagar, said that microchipping requires a scanner to identify the dog and it is not easy to know whether the dog has a microchip as it will be under its skin. "The BBMP can buy two geotags with the money required to buy one micro chip," said Satish Babu.

> **"Who is responsible if something goes wrong? Is BBMP playing with the lives of the streeties?**
> –Jagadish Mittur, social activist

### A ticket to hell

Jagadish Mittur, a social activist, termed the microchips as a ticket to hell for the free roaming stray dogs. "Microchips are being procured at a cost of Rs. 200 perhaps supplied by the lowest bidder in the tender. If the quality of microchip is not of the gold standard and the procedure of their implantation and follow up is not carried out in a strict medical manner, it will be a disaster, as there will be nobody to take care of the microchipped dogs," said Mittur. He said microchipping can manifest into adverse tissue response, movement of the chip within the body, interference of electromagnetic radio waves and there is the risk of cancer.

# 'Not opening more liquor shops'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday said his government will not be opening more liquor shops in the state.

"No we are not opening...who said we are opening? Minister has said we will think about it, but we will not open," he said in response to a question.

The Karnataka Excise Department has submitted a proposal to the government recommending setting up of liquor shops in gram panchayats with a population of over 3,000.

Opposition parties -- BJP and JD(S) -- had urged the government not to give its nod, terming the proposal as "anti people".

Speaking about various state-run boards and corporations in the state, the chief minister also said that appointments of Congress workers as presidents and directors will be done soon. Answering a question, Siddaramaiah said he has informed the 10-member inter-ministerial central team (IMCT), which is on a four-day visit to take stock of the drought situation, that this time the state is facing a "green drought", and requested that the assessment be made based on ground realities.

**Excise Dept wants to set up liquor shops in panchayats with 3,000+ residents**

The state has told the team that 195 out of 236 taluks have been declared as drought-hit as per central guidelines; more than Rs 30,000 crore worth crops have been damaged. "There is 52 per cent crop damage -- it is about 42 lakh hectare."

The IMCT has been informed about "less water" in most of the reservoirs across the state, he said, adding that Rs 4,860 crore drought relief has been sought from the Centre as per norms, while the actual loss is estimated to be around Rs 30,000 crore. **PTI**

consumer connect initiative

# Successful dairy farmers felicitated

**The VK Hainu Honnu program organised by Vijay Karnataka in association with the KOCHIMUL to honour progressive farmers who have earned fame in dairy farming elicited very good response from the farming community.**

The program held at the T. Channaiah Rangamandira was inaugurated by performing the sacred Gaupuja after which the distinguished guests honoured farmers from various taluks from Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts who have achieved success in dairy farming and also encouraged them to aim for more success.

Kochimul President K.Y. Nanjegowda, District Superintendent of Police M. Narayana, Directors Y.B. Ashwathnarayan and R. Srinivas and others released the special supplement brought out by Vijay Karnataka on the occasion.

They appreciated the pro farmer programmes like Superstar Farmer and Hainu-Honnu organized by Vijay Karnataka. They also assured necessary help and cooperation to these programs in future.

Speaking after inaugurating the programme, Kochimul President K.Y. Nanjegowda said that it is a matter of pride that Vijay Karnataka is giving more impetus to dairy farming through its initiatives like the Hainu-Honnu programmes to improve the lives of the farmers of the state.

Reducing the electricity bill will be of great benefit for milk producers.

## VK Hainu-Honnu Awardees from Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts

**Awardees from Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts were felicitated at the VK Hainu-Honnu programme held at T. Channaiah Rangamandira in Kolar on Friday.**

## 'VK Hainu Honnu' Awardees

Presidents of various milk producers' associations, women achievers and vendors of good Nandini products were felicitated on the occasion.

Milk Producers' Co-operative Societies like Abbani in Kolar taluk, Bennaghatta in Malur taluk, Thatepalli in KGF taluk, Kadenahalli in Mulbagal taluk, Dalsanur in Srinivasapura taluk, Anagatta in Chikkaballapura taluk from Chikkaballapura district, Jagatanahalli in Chintamani taluk, K. Muttakadahalli in Sidlaghatta taluk, Gundlahalli in Gauribidanur taluk, Somanathapura in Bagepalli taluk and Tilakuntahalli in Gudibande taluk and in Womens milk producers' co-operative societies from Manchahalli in Bangarpet taluk, Doddakammanahalli MPCS in Chikkaballapur taluk,

Successful women dairists like Sandhya from Malur taluk and Vasantha in Chintamani taluk were honored. The Court Parlour in KGF taluk Vinuth Kumar, Bagepalli taluk Venkataramappa were awarded for selling Nandini products.

The federation has been able to raise deposits to the tune of Rs. 200 crore with the cooperation of Directors and Officers on the board. He also warned that no one should do politics in milk producers' cooperative societies.

The quality has gone up from 40 per cent earlier to 95 per cent now. As a result, the milk producers' cooperative societies and the federation are running on profits. He said that it is a matter of pride that Vijay Karnataka is making the lives of farmers easier by organizing programmes in their favour and supporting them.

Sidlaghatta Director R. Srinivas said that a milk federation was started in 1987 to improve the lives of farmers in Kolar and Chikkaballapura, which are famous for silk and milk, and supplied 1 lakh litres of milk every day. Tetra-pack unit was established in 2000 to improve the quality of milk supplied in the state. Priority is given for supply of high quality milk using modern technology.

Many schemes have been implemented to make the lives of farmers better. He said farmers should extend more cooperation to supply quality milk in the coming days.

**Kochimul President K.Y. Nanjegowda and SP M. Narayana participated in the Gaupuja.**

Dr. Ramayya, Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry, Parameshwara, Assistant Director Horticulture Department, Kochimul Marketing Manager Dr. Chetan, General Manager Dr. Srinivasgowda, Managers Murali (Finance), Vishwanath (Procurement), Guruprasad (Dairy), Rajeev (Inji), Chaitra (UHT), Gayatramma (Dairy), Chikkaballapura Storage and Technology Manager Dr. Madhav and others were present.

## Need for a dairy technology college in the region: M. Narayana

District Superintendent of Police M. Narayana said that farmers in Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts are engaged in dairy farming and it has become an important occupation in the region.

Farmers should earn even more income. He said a dairy technical college should be started for the benefit of children studying in the region.

He lauded the efforts of Vijay Karnataka which has just completed 24 years and is celebrating Silver Jubilee, for its initiative to improve the life of farmers.

# Dasara boost for housing sales

## Demand for 3BHK homes surges as Bengaluru embraces festive property buy

**"People look forward to festivals to buy property. The market has experienced a robust pickup, and realtors are witnessing demand like never before.** – SP Dayanand, DS Max Properties Pvt. Ltd

The festive season is one of the most eagerly awaited events in the city. Every year, people anticipate the festivities not just for celebration but also for making big investments in their lives. Realtors in the city say that the festival attracts property buyers who seek to make a lifelong investment commencing from an auspicious time. With Dasara commencing this month, many have already begun scouting properties such as flats and plots to make a suitable investment.

SP Dayanand, Executive Director at DS Max Properties Private Limited, mentioned that festivals are the proper celebration for property purchases.

"People look forward to festivals to buy property. Many usually compare pre-Covid and post-Covid times. However, I've observed a trend where people seem to have moved past the Covid era. The market has experienced a robust pickup, and realtors are witnessing demand like never before. Previously, many preferred 2BHK flats, but the latest trend observed by realtors is that many now want to invest in 3BHK homes. During Covid, many started working from home, necessitating an additional room. In Bengaluru, all areas have seen an uptick in demand, especially in north Bengaluru and areas with Metro connectivity."

Realtor Sandesh Gowda advised, "If you're planning to buy a site, the right time is during festivals starting from Dasara. For many, investing in property is a lifelong plan, so people carefully consider it before purchasing. It is a tradition to choose an auspicious time for visiting a site or buying property. Now, the right time has come, as it is strongly believed that Dasara is the opportune time to invest in property. With numerous auspicious days ahead, Dasara is believed to bring fortunes for those looking to invest. We are now entering 10 days of auspicious days, considered the right time for starting new endeavours. Since buying property and constructing a house is viewed as a new phase of life, we hope people will take advantage of this opportune time to invest in property."

Meanwhile, Anuj Puri, Chairman of ANAROCK Group, stated, "The Reserve Bank's decision on Friday to keep the repo rate unchanged is a festive bonanza for homebuyers, providing them another opportunity to make cost-optimised home purchases. Considering current trends, the overall consumer market appears bullish across sectors, particularly in the automobile and housing markets, which reflect the economy's health in many ways. We are entering the festive quarter with a strong momentum in housing sales, and unchanged interest rates will act as a major catalyst for growth in the residential market. According to ANAROCK Research, housing sales across the top seven cities reached a new peak in Q3 2023, recording 1,20,280 units against over 88,230 units sold in Q3 2022, reflecting a 36% yearly growth. Stable repo rates and consequently stable home loan interest rates are expected to sustain this momentum." **–Prakash VL**

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9886721857

# Gift yourself prosperity: Real estate investment this festive season

The festive season, synonymous with joy and togetherness, isn't just about celebrations and merrymaking. It also offers a unique opportunity for individuals looking to make a significant investment in real estate.

Real estate developers often choose the festive season to launch new projects, leveraging the positive sentiment associated with the season to attract more buyers. As a result, investors have a wide range of fresh projects to choose from, including apartments, villas, and commercial spaces.

Developers tend to diversify their offerings during this period, leading to various locations to consider. Whether you're interested in urban properties, suburban homes, or vacation getaways, the festive season offers multiple options.

These increased property choices empower investors to be more selective

and find properties that align perfectly with their investment goals and preferences. Developers and builders roll out a red carpet of discounts and offers during the festive season to sweeten the deal. Buyers can take advantage of lowered property prices, making properties more affordable. Developers often waive various fees such as stamp duty, registration charges, and even maintenance fees for an initial period, saving buyers considerable money. Some festive season offers include complimentary amenities like fully furnished interiors, modular kitchens, or even free parking spaces, enhancing the property's overall value.

The festive season offers individuals a unique and opportune moment to invest in property. The combination of increased property choices, attractive discounts and offers, favourable interest rates, favourable market sentiment, emotional factors, tax benefits, and the potential for future returns makes a compelling case for real estate investment during this time. While it's essential to capitalise on these advantages, conducting thorough research, due diligence, and financial planning is equally crucial before making any property investment. Real estate is a significant commitment, and decisions should be made wisely, considering your financial goals. **–BMB**

# Women's path in real estate

A recent study by CREDAI-MCHI revealed that slightly more than a third (36 per cent) of women surveyed view real estate as a promising career option. On the other hand, about two-thirds (64 per cent) of men shared the same sentiment. Women only hold 23 per cent of the leadership positions in real estate firms. So, while the good news is that this number has improved since the last decade, the bad news is it's still relatively low.

The stigma that the sector isn't particularly welcoming towards women is one fundamental cause for the existing gender disparity. "Employing women in the real estate sector has been challenging for many years. Despite women making up a significant proportion of the national workforce, they remain underrepresented in this sector, and their participation is important to bring in different perspectives and opinions, leading to more innovative and successful outcomes. To encourage women participation, stakeholders in the sector are compelled to increase their outreach efforts to attract women to the industry for various job roles," opines Vishal Thakkar, founder and CEO of a real estate firm. Experts believe that to address this gender gap, just providing concessions and discounts is not enough. There's an urgent need to address structural issues such as unequal pay and social norms that limit women's access to education and employment opportunities.

Aarti Harbhajanka, managing director of a real estate consultancy firm, opines, "Policywise, it is necessary to place special emphasis on enhancing property ownership for economically disadvantaged women from vulnerable sections of the society. Like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, which mandates joint ownership of women in all households, all government-subsidised social housing projects must mandate women's ownership. Similarly, slum redevelopment projects providing free housing should promote joint ownership of the house."

On ground-level, to make home ownership more accessible to women, the infrastructure around the project more women-friendly. "Infrastructure and amenities in residential areas should be improved, keeping in mind the safety and convenience for women. This will include adequate lighting, public transportation, healthcare facilities, schools and recreational spaces. Having women sales representatives and estate agents also makes it favourable for a lady to approach the idea of home ownership," says Ashish Narain Agarwal, founder and CEO of a full-stack real estate service company. **– BMB**

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# High on taxes, but low on infra

Many taxpayers in the city are upset with facilities. For instance, Mahadevapura residents say that despite paying the highest taxes in the city, the zone lacks basic infrastructure

## Bengaluru residents bear burden of South India's second-highest civic tax

| Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Bengaluru's per capita civic tax stands at 1,638, ranking as the second highest in South India. Hyderabad, the capital of Telangana, collects a slightly higher civic tax at Rs 1,642. In contrast, Chennai's per capita tax is Rs 1,550. Mumbai holds the record for the highest per capita civic tax at Rs 4,086, followed by Pune at Rs 2,635, Coimbatore at Rs 2,259, Ahmedabad at Rs 1,565, Madurai at Rs 784, Jabalpur at Rs 669, Surat at Rs 660, Rajkot at Rs 628, and Kota at Rs 28. The data was recently presented during a meeting of the Urban Development Department in New Delhi.

The collection of property tax is a major source of BBMP's revenue. In 2021-22, the collection was Rs 3,033 crore, which increased to Rs 3,758 crore in 2022-23. This increase in property tax collection was about 24 per cent yearly. Mahadevapura, home to prominent tech hubs like Whitefield, holds the distinction of being Bengaluru's most affluent zone, contributing the highest property tax to the city's revenue.

However, Mahadevapura residents say that despite paying the highest taxes, the zone lacks basic infrastructure. "If you happen to visit Mahadevapura, you will always remember the traffic jams. Travelling from one area to another takes more than half an hour. Despite paying so much tax, the infrastructure has never been fixed. Most of the roads are in bad shape, and BBMP has bothered least to take care of the area that brings in the moolah", said Sandeep S, a techie residing in Marathahalli.

### Performance audit

"So far, we have been concentrating on self-assessment. We will also collect arrears from those who have failed to pay. We have given targets to the revenue officers. We are not stopping at this. We have decided to do a performance audit of revenue officers and the target they have achieved. We will be measuring the target and then name the three best revenue officers who have got us the maximum tax and also fix the bottom three who have failed to meet the revenue target", an official said.

> **"Mahadevapura is remembered for its traffic jams. Going from one area to another takes half an hour** – Sandeep, techie

During the last financial year, the BBMP had taken up a study to identify properties where the owners were paying commercial rates to BESCOM and other state agencies but had declared residential property tax payments were undertaken. BBMP had identified 12,699 cases, and Rs 134 crore penalty was levied. "Property Tax collection procedure in BBMP needs to be completely revamped. It is proposed to take up all self-assessment declarations by all major commercial buildings for a detailed verification during 2023-24. These S.A.S. returns will be compared with corresponding documents of other state agencies by using the required software. This is expected to lead to a substantial increase in property tax collection. A target of Rs 4,790 crores is expected to be collected in 2023-24 under property taxes, including cesses. Excluding cesses which need to be transferred to other institutions, the property tax collection target has been set at Rs 4,412 crores. This target is 27 per cent more than the amount proposed to be collected in the revised budget for 2022-23", said an official.

## Karnataka gears up to tackle misinformation

The Karnataka government has issued an 'Expression of Interest' (EOI) to enlist agencies for the establishment of an Information Disorder Tackling Unit. This unit's primary goal is to combat misinformation, disinformation, malinformation, and fake news. The Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS) has floated the EOI, and the deadline for proposal submission is October 16.

Minister for IT/BT Priyank Kharge said that the government of Karnataka is serious about tackling misinformation, disinformation, malinformation and fake news. The EOI has been floated for empanelment of agencies to set up such a unit for the government.

In a post on social media platform X, he said, "The EOI includes: Fact Verification Team -- This group will consist of impartial fact-checking organisations chosen by the state government to detect and address false information; Analytics Squad: Utilising advanced technologies such as data analytics and Artificial Intelligence, this team will actively oversee the ecosystem of misinformation; and Capacity Development team: This team will lead public awareness campaigns to educate people about the presence and consequences of the misinformation ecosystem." The objective of seeking this EOI is to identify suitable agencies for each of these three components of the Karnataka Information Disorder Tackling Unit.

An agency will be chosen to set up the information disorder tacling unit

The invitation for bids is open to all entities registered in India who fulfil the pre-qualification criteria specified. The criteria include that -- they should be a legal entity/company registered in India, have at least three years of existence as of August 31, 2023, be involved in fact-checking service and have a track record of carrying similar activities/units for other organisations.

Also, about transparency of funding — all funding received by the agency accounting for 5 per cent or more of total revenue for the previous three financial years must be available on their website, and (there should be) no record of criminal proceedings on any serious crime or violation of code of conduct against the agency or any of the directors. – PTI

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### Leaves and shoots

Vidyaranyapura

In the vicinity of 8th Cross, AMS Layout, Vidyaranyapura, right in front of an empty plot, has a significant accumulation of pruned branches, leaves, and debris.

### Forgotten vehicle

Indiranagar

An car has been abandoned on 6th Main in Defence Colony, Indiranagar, for over a year now.

### Muddy road

Chinnappanahalli

Rain turns the pathway to Chinnappanahalli Park muddy and slushy, hindering access for residents seeking a leisurely walk from Chinnappanahalli.

# More than a platelet problem

## City doctors say 'low platelet count' not only sign of Dengue's severity; highlight several other factors that need to be monitored in patients

Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

There seems to be no respite from dengue stings. So far, Karnataka has recorded 10,500 dengue cases, including 5,756 dengue cases in Bengaluru. So far, 60,000 blood samples have been sent for dengue testing. While in many diseases, a reduction in fever is seen as a positive sign, in the case of dengue, a reduction in fever will soon start with a reduction in platelet count. With many worried patients requesting doctors to go for platelet transfusions due to a low platelet count, healthcare experts are suggesting not to rush for it. "It is only the treating physician who decides when to transfuse and for whom to transfuse. Prophylactic platelet transfusion is not done," said Dr Shashi Kumar M, a physician.

"Recently, we had a five-year-old suffering from high-grade fever with generalised rashes over the body. The platelet count had gone as low as 28,000, and the boy tested positive for dengue NS1. In view of borderline low BP, the young patient was admitted to PICU and the platelets continued to decrease for the next 48 hours and only later it started increasing. Very often, doctors see dengue patients and their families overtly concerned about platelet count and focus on transfusing platelets," explained a paediatrician.

It's evident that low platelets alone may not necessarily be indicative of severity. Platelet transfusions to correct the number could, in fact, be harmful. The important indicators or alarms of severity are hematocrit (an indicator of fluid deficit in the body and blood thickness). Hematocrit normally should be less than 45, as high hematocrit levels suggest leaky blood vessels and profound loss of water content in the blood, similar to profound dehydration, the paediatrician added.

Karnataka has recorded 10,500 dengue cases, including 5,756 cases in Bengaluru

> **Active bleeding from any site (like nasal bleeds or extensive petechial lesions over the body, most often found in the legs) are worrying signs** – Paediatrician

"Active bleeding from any site (like nasal bleeds, gum bleeds, etc.) or extensive petechial lesions over the body, most often found in the legs, are worrying signs. Any patient with dengue, while looking at platelet count, it's important to look at hematocrit levels, which throw light on the possible need for hospital admission if the hematocrit levels are high," they explained.

Furthermore, Dr Krishnamurthy added that most dengue patients who end up in critical care units have low BP, which is called dengue shock syndrome. "This low BP is because of a strong inflammation that happens in dengue. As such, low platelets rarely cause bleeding in dengue. Hence, hydration and BP are more critical than platelet count," he said. According to Dr Brunda MS (Consultant - Internal Medicine, Aster CMI Hospital), there are multiple factors and parameters, such as evaluating the condition of the patient's symptoms, such as abdominal pain, repetitive vomiting, and breathing difficulties, and they need to undergo a combination of clinical and laboratory parameters to diagnose dengue infection.

"Bleeding manifestations are highly variable in dengue patients, so laboratory tests for haemoglobin, hematocrit, total leukocytes, aspartate aminotransferase (AST), alanine aminotransferase (ALT) evaluation, activated partial thromboplastin time (PTT), and partial thromboplastin (PT) tests are recommended to confirm the severity of the case," she added.

The most important and easy way to fight this disease is to control mosquito breeding. The civic authorities, as usual, turn their eyes blind to prevent water logging, and the incessant heavy rains are not helping the cause. It is the responsibility of every individual to prevent mosquito breeding around his residence, said health experts.

BBMP Special Commissioner Dr KV Thrilok Chandra said, "During August, there were 1,800 cases, and it went up to 2,000 cases in September. Earlier, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao launched a predictive model and app-based surveillance to track vector-borne disease, and we have been identifying hot spots. We have penalised a few contractors as well for not eliminating breeding spots. We hope that by the end of October, there is a drop in dengue cases."

# UGC bans franchisee model

While "franchisee" might be a popular term in business, it has no place in the field of education, according to the University Grants Commission (UGC). The UGC has made it clear that universities, whether Central, State, Private, or Deemed, cannot offer their programs through franchising arrangements for admitting students and conducting courses through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and online modes. The UGC has issued a stern warning to universities, instructing them to ensure that the entire admission process is carried out transparently through the headquarters of the higher education institution (HEI).

Manish R Joshi, the Secretary of the UGC, stated, "Learner Support Centers (LSCs) shall be established and managed directly by the HEI and not through any franchisee or outsourced arrangement. Franchisee arrangements with private service providers for offering ODL and online programs are not permissible as per the UGC regulations."

Joshi also stressed the equivalence of qualifications obtained through conventional, ODL, and online modes, stating that they shall be treated as equivalent. Learners enrolled in ODL or online programs under a recognised Higher Educational Institution (HEI) shall be eligible for mobility between these modes with the approval of the relevant authorities. He further clarified that admission taken in a recognised ODL or online program during the recognition period remains valid until program completion, even if the HEI's recognition expires. He also noted that learners can enrol in programs offered by HEIs under ODL and online modes, provided the activities are conducted within the territorial jurisdiction specified by the UGC regulations.

Students are advised to verify the recognition status of HEIs for ODL and online education on the UGC DEB website, check HEI websites for details, and ensure compliance with territorial jurisdiction regulations for ODL programs.

-Sridhar Vivan

# Loopholes in renovation at Hampi

Hampi seems to be in one or the other controversy surrounding the maintenance of historical ruins and temples. Now, the latest controversy has erupted over the ongoing renovation work at a Shankara temple. The temple's outer layer had been recently removed for renovation with the deity being covered in plastic. While the locals welcome the effort to preserve their heritage, they express concerns about the manner in which the renovations are being conducted.

Vishwanath Malagi who heads the Vijayanagar Smaraka Samskruti Samrakshana Sene (a citizens' body fighting for the restoration of ancient sites around Hampi) said, "The temple is located in the famous car street in Hampi. While the renovation work is being taken up, necessary safety measures are not in place. A Shiva Linga and Shankaracharya statue has been left in the open without any protection. With the movement of boulders and stones facilitated by cranes, we are worried that the stones may accidentally fall on the statues and damage them. We request the contractors and ASI to take due care while renovating the world heritage site of Hampi." -BMB

PIC: RACHAYYA SS

Controversy erupted over the ongoing renovation work at Shankara temple

> **While the renovation work is being taken up, necessary safety measures are not in place**

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# BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

## STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

### NATURE'S SCALE

A flight of great cormorants catching fish in Kaikondrahalli lake

The picture was clicked by BM reader **T Prakash**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

# Can't wait any longer

## BMRCL dismisses speculations about inauguration date of entire Purple Line; commuters say sooner the better

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) managing director, Anjum Parvez, said that the inauguration date for the entire Purple Line (Challaghatta-Kengeri and Baiyappanahalli-KR Pura) has not been decided yet. He further noted that the speculative dates on social media are mere rumours.

Metro commuters are eagerly waiting for the BMRCL to commence operations between the 2.1km KR Puration in order to wait for the Kengeri-Challaghatta stretch to also be inspected. Since the inspection of the 2 km Kengeri-Challaghatta section took place on September 29, the demand has increased.

Neitzens suspected the inauguration would take place on Friday. However, the BMRCL has not taken any steps regarding the matter. With this, the demand has only increased. Sreejith, a resident, took to X (previously Twitter) recently and

**Neitzens suspected the inauguration would take place on Friday; however, BMRCL has not taken any steps**

Baiyappanahalli section of the Purple Line, as it would be of convenience to passengers who wish to travel beyond Baiyappanahalli without using the metro feeder services provided by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC). The request has been made since the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) gave its approval for passenger operations on the stretch recently. BMRCL had delayed the inaugurasaid, "CMRS has given the green signal for metro service from KR Pura to Baiyappanahalli stretch. Why can't the BMRCL start operations tomorrow itself and officially inaugurate the entire line after getting clearance for Challaghatta? Why should people struggle for many more days?"

Whitefield Rising, a resident welfare association (RWA) said, "This is a no-brainer. People in Bengaluru have spent enough time idling in traffic. Open the full line for operations. Give us all some relief."

### Passenger fined for eating in metro train

A viral video of a passenger eating gobi manchurian on one of the coaches of a metro train has led Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to register a case against him at the Jayanagar Police station. The corporation has also slapped a fine of Rs 500 on the passenger for violating norms. This is the first time the BMRCL has booked a passenger to eat food on the train. The passenger is a regular commuter between Jayanagar and Sampige Road. In the viral video, one can hear his friends in the surrounding area warning him against eating on the metro. However, the accused goes on to consume the food.

Another incident of a YouTuber playing pranks on the premises of metro stations as well as inside the coaches has come to light. 'Prank Prajju' has been accused of pretending to fall in the metro coaches and on the escalator, startling other commuters around him. Videos show passengers around him being a second away from trying to help the YouTuber while he gains back his regular posture. BMRCL has not taken any action against the YouTuber yet. — BMB

## DID YOU KNOW?

Ba Na Sundararao was a very well-known historian and journalist from Bengaluru. He wrote under the pen name Vanavihari and authored 25 books in Kannada. Bengalurina Itihasa is one of his popular works, which is known to trace the history of the city from its founding until independence. He is also known to have written biographies, poems, short stories, and many articles. He wrote biographies of Sir M Visveswaraiah and Bellave Naraharishastri. His work includes 'Bharata-Pakistana Samarada Itihasa, which was based on the history of the Indo-Pak War. He passed away on October 8, 1986, at the age of 68. He remains one of the greatest pioneers in Kannada literature.

## GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

**9591233247**

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

## TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

### How has Bengaluru changed over the years, and what changes have you observed in your neighbourhood?

**Shankar, BM Reader**
I've seen Bengaluru grow from a small town to a big city. There has been a lot of development, and it is truly amazing. When I moved here, there was hardly anything, and it was very barren. But now there are a lot of shops, and malls.

**Saroja Shankar, BM Reader**
It used to be like a village when we moved here. There were hardly any people, and there were a lot of empty sites. Now, there is a lot of development, and many schools, colleges, hospitals, etc. have come up.

**Vaishnavi G, BM Reader**
The density of the population in the city has increased rapidly over a period of time, which has resulted in traffic congestion and pollution and also a drastic change in climate. There's a decline in greenery; it has turned into a concrete city.

**Yashas Manjunath, BM Reader**
Bengaluru, India's Silicon Valley, is rapidly transforming across sectors like education, technology, and electronics. The Digital India Campaign has brought significant changes. Small and large purchases favour digital payments.

**Rashmi, BM Reader**
Bengaluru, once famed for its serene lakes and exquisite gardens, has undergone a profound transformation across various fronts, encompassing infrastructure, digitalisation, and economic growth.

**Sanjay, BM Reader**
My locality turned from a residential area to a partying destination. Every place is crowded, chaotic, and losing the calmness that you would get when walking the streets a few years ago.

### SPEAK TO US

What changes or developments would you like to see in Bengaluru in the next five years?
If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

**HEALTH TIP:** Quinoa plays a crucial role in reducing the risk of chronic diseases and promoting overall health

Fruits are the safest plant foods, they are also very nutritious and a good source of healthy fibre for the gut



# SLEEP LIKE A BABY? SAY THAT TO NEW PARENTS

## Tips for new parents on coping with sleep deprivation

Getting a full eight hours of sleep may seem like a distant dream for parents of newborn babies. Every new parent is aware of how difficult it may be to get a good night's sleep due to constant feedings, diaper changes and walks with a cranky infant. Even though taking care of yourself can be difficult when you have a newborn, getting enough rest needs to be a top priority. That's because parents who have inconsistent sleep patterns may experience severe deprivation of sleep.

Sleep deprivation affects everyone's emotions, safety, and even longevity. Lack of sleep can have negative effects on one's health, including chronic illnesses like depression, high blood pressure, kidney disease and cardiovascular health. Adults who are not getting enough sleep are more likely to have accidents, which makes them risky around young children.

Since having a good night's sleep gives you the capacity to care for the new addition to your family, it is imperative to understand which tactics work effectively for both you and the child. Infants have shorter sleep cycles than adults do. Finding what works best for you and your child is crucial since addressing your own sleep needs helps you get through those sleep-deprived parenting days. Read on for some tips.

### Nap When The Baby Naps

A 20- to 30-minute nap during the baby's nap time will rejuvenate new parents without producing sleep inertia, which is that hazy experience when you wake up. Sleeping whenever the baby is sleeping can help reduce stress levels for new parents. It can be difficult at times due to the internal biological clocks, however, it is an excellent opportunity to attempt to get some rest.

### Create A Sleep Conducive Environment

A sleep-friendly environment might assist in enhancing your sleep quality. Consider setting up a peaceful sleeping environment and consistent night-time routine that promotes restfulness at night and maintaining a comfortable, healthy sleep environment.

### Balance Responsibilities

Working together as a parenting unit to achieve great things can lead to both parents caring for the child, without the burden falling on one parent. It is essential for new parents to ensure that both are enjoying uninterrupted sleep at night, which can be possible if new parents take turns waking up with the infant. Feedings, diaper changes and other nocturnal infant tasks can be divided between both the partners, which would lead to at least one of the parents having a restful night's sleep.

### Employ Relaxation Techniques

Implementing relaxation practices into your sleeping regimen will help calm the body and mind, allowing you to fall asleep more quickly. Deep breathing exercises, progressive muscular relaxation, meditation, and visualisation are a few efficient relaxation methods. Relaxation techniques can help new parents sleep better and also help them unwind and improve their sleep habits.

### Diagnosing Sleep Disorders

It is essential for people to get adequate sleep, and individuals who battle with sleep disorders, in particular, may find that their quality of sleep suffers when this requirement is not met. Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is one such sleep disorder that has been scientifically connected to excessive daytime sleepiness (EDS). Sleep disorders must be identified and treated as soon as possible.

The importance of getting enough sleep should not be overlooked, even though taking care of oneself can be difficult when caring for a newborn. By developing the right sleeping patterns, new parents can get the sleep they need to function through the day. Speak with your doctor if you have trouble falling or staying asleep in the days and weeks following the newborn's arrival. If you encounter symptoms that go beyond postpartum exhaustion, your healthcare provider may determine whether you require more medical care. Your physician can assess the full extent of your healthcare needs and offer you more tips on how to feel your best.

*—by Kalwyna Rathod, Femina*

MIRRORLIGHTS

## Researchers find how sense of smell can affect our perception of colours

We receive constant environmental input through our five senses. Combining information from two or more senses, such as between odours and the smoothness of textures, pitch, colour, and musical dimensions, is one way our brain makes sense of this flood of information. As a result of this sensory integration, we also link certain colours to the flavours of specific meals, such as the flavour of oranges with the colour of the same name, and greater temperatures with warmer colours, lower sound pitches with less elevated places, and so on.

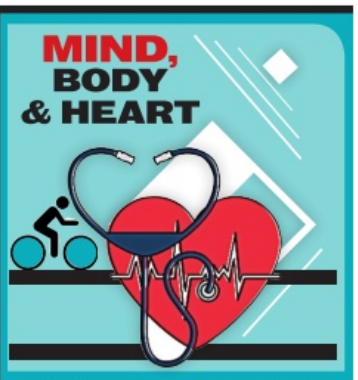
Now, a study published in Frontiers in Psychology has experimentally demonstrated that such unintentional links with our sense of smell might influence how we perceive colours.

"Here we show that the presence of different odours influences how humans perceive colour," said lead author Dr Ryan Ward, a senior lecturer at Liverpool John Moores University in Liverpool, UK.

Ward and colleagues tested for the existence and strength of odour-colour associations in

24 adult women and men between 20 and 57 years of age. The participants were seated in front of a screen in a room devoid of unwanted sensory stimuli for the duration of the experiments. Then one of six odours (chosen at random from caramel, cherry, coffee, lemon, and peppermint, plus odourless water as a control) was broadcast into the room with an ultrasonic diffuser for five minutes.

The results showed that participants had a weak but significant tendency to adjust one or both of the sliders too far away from neutral grey. For example, when presented with the odour of coffee, they wrongly perceived 'grey' to be more of a red-brown colour than true neutral grey. **— ANI**




## All you need to know about...

### *Weight-loss drugs risk*

**Serious gastro issues**

While popular weight loss drugs like Wegovy, Ozempic may help you lose weight and fight diabetes, these may come with a heightened risk of severe gastrointestinal problems in people without the blood sugar condition, finds a study, led by an Indian-origin researcher. The findings, published in JAMA, showed that the medications known as GLP-1 agonists, originally developed for managing Type-2 diabetes, which includes brands like Wegovy, Ozempic, Rybelsus and Saxenda, are associated with an increased risk of serious medical conditions including stomach paralysis, pancreatitis and bowel obstruction.

**Risk calculus**

"Given the wide use of these drugs, these adverse events, although rare, must be considered by patients thinking about using them for weight loss," said first author Mohit Sodhi, a graduate at the University of British Columbia's (UBC) experimental medicine programme.

"The risk calculus will differ depending on whether a patient is using these drugs for diabetes, obesity or just general weight loss. People who are otherwise healthy may be less willing to accept these potentially serious adverse events," he added.

**Drugs examined**

The team examined health insurance claim records for approximately 16 million US patients and looked at people prescribed either semaglutide or liraglutide, two main GLP-1 agonists, between 2006 and 2020. Compared to bupropion-naltrexone, another weight loss drug, GLP-1 agonists were associated with a 9.09 times higher risk of pancreatitis, or inflammation of the pancreas, which can cause severe abdominal pain and, in some cases, require hospitalisation and surgery.

People using the drugs were 4.22 times at higher risk of bowel obstruction, whereby food is prevented from passing through the small or large intestine, resulting in symptoms like cramping, bloating, nausea and vomiting. **—IANS**

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### CHANGE OF NAME

**I** Krishna Omkarappa Lamani r/o flat No.1216 B Block 12th Floor Brigade Panorama Mysore Main Road Kambipura Bangalore 560074 have changed my name to Krishna Chauhan

**I,** Bajanthri Prakash Residing at No. 35, Ground floor, 3rd Cross, Maruthi Layout, Kempapura, Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560024 have changed my name to BAJANTHRI VENKATESU PRAKASH vide affidavit dated 06/10/2023 Sworn before notary: H Sridhar Rao, Bangalore

**I,** Gireesh Holla Residing at No. E-602, Veracious Vanivilas, Doddaballapura Road, Near CRPF Campus, Puttenahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064 have changed my name to GIREESH BHOJA HOLLA vide affidavit dated 06/10/2023 Sworn before notary: H Sridhar Rao, Bangalore

**I,** DEEPSHIKHA RAJY PARMAR, W/o Nishant Rajawat, R/o Villa-9, The Gran Carmen, Sarjapura Main Road Mulluru, Bengaluru - 560035 have changed my name as DEEPSHIKHA PARMAR, vide affidavit dated 06.10.2023, sworn before notary S. Subashini, Bengaluru.

**I,** Kamakshi S Shenoy, w/o K. Sreekanth Shenoy, residing at 302, Padmashree Presidency, 17th Cross, 21st Main, JP Nagar Phase 5, Bangalore-560078, have changed my name from Rohini N K to Kamakshi S Shenoy, vide Affidavit Number IN-KA00843059225397V dated 30.09.2023, before Notary L Puttaraju, Bangalore 78.

**I,** Pallavi Neelakanta W/o Neelakanta S R/o No 54, Bolare Post Kanakapura Main Road, Nettigere, Ramanagar,-560082 have changed my name to Pallavi Channapatna Shivanna for all purposes.

**I** Nallamothu Jhansi Lakshmi W/O, Nallamothu Vijaya Bhaskar Rao R/o 38, Jhansi Nivas, Somanna Garden, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru. 560097 have changed my name to Jhansi Lakshmi Rao .

**I,** Subhashree Mishra W/o Subramaniyam mishra R/o Myhna heights, B401, Varthur, Gunjur, 560087, Bangalore have changed my name to Subhashree Kar for all purpose

**I,** Pramila Babu R/a No. 8, Giddamma Layout, PWD Road, Akash Nagar, B Narayanapura, Bengaluru 560016. I have changed my name to Pramila. Vide affidavit dated 06-10-23. Sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, Bengaluru.

**I,** Ghulam Pervez, S/o Sh. Gulam Mustafa, R/o Flat No. 210, J S Tulip Apartment, Ananthapura Yelahanka, Bangalore have changed my name from Ghulam Pervez to Gulam Pervez for all future purposes.

**I,** Nayangara Gijo John s/o NP John residing @ 201 4/1 1st main 2nd cross SG Palya Bangalore-560029, have changed my name Nayangara Gijo John to Gijo John vide Affidavit dt 12-09-2023 before notary Mahesha J.J Bangalore.

**I,** Habiba Taranum, R/o. No. 10/12, 3rd Cross, Root Cannel Specialist Center, M.S.Nagar, Bengaluru-560033 have changed my name to UMME HABIBA SYED ISMAIL vide affidavit dated 06/10/2023 before notary: A R Munir Ahmed, Bangalore

**I** Mohammed Usmaan Bagewadi S/O, Mohammed Ashfaq A B R/o No 110 Ground Floor Mahaveer Clover Kogilu Crosss Yelahanka Bengaluru Karnataka 560064 have changed my name to Mohammed Usmaan M B .

**I,** SHRINIDHI, Residing at ACS Vasundhara M-801 Kadirenahalli Park, 100 Feet Ring Road, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Opp HDFC Bank Bangalore-560070. Have changed My name to SHRINIDHI SHARAD KUMAR vide affidavit dated 06/10/2023 before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

**I,** Ramesh Babu Govindarajulu R/a 36 Parinitha, 1st Cross Muneshwara Temple Street, Lottegollahalli, Bengaluru 560094. I have changed my name to Ramesh Naidu Govindarajulu. Vide affidavit dated 05-10-23. Sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, B'lore.


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**PRIME PROPERTY**

# India reclaim hockey gold with 5-1 victory

## Men's team crushes Japan to re-establish superiority in the continent; berth in next year's Paris Olympics comes as bonus

Playing a brand of hockey that has led to its recent metamorphosis into a medal contender in the world, the Indian men's hockey team defeated Japan 5-1 to re-established its superiority in the continent by winning the gold medal in the Asian Games for the fourth time in 19 editions. The bonus they gained for their consistent performance in the hockey competition in Hangzhou was a berth in next year's Paris Olympics, becoming the fourth team after hosts France, EuroNations Champions the Netherlands and Australia to seal their berths.

On Friday, India defeated Japan 5-1 in the final, riding on a brace by skipper Harmanpreet Singh (32nd, 59th minutes), while Manpreet Singh (25th min), Amit Rohidas (36th min) and Abhishek (48th min) struck a goal each. Japan's lone consolation was scored by Seren Tanaka off an indirect penalty corner in the 51st minute.

India's players celebrate their win at the men's final hockey match between India and Japan during the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou on Friday

This is India's fourth-ever gold medal in the Asian Games after 1966 in Bangkok, 1998 in Bangkok and 2014 in Incheon, India has also won nine silver medals and three bronze medals in the Asian Games so far.

India joined South Korea as the second-most successful team in Asian Games men's hockey with four gold medals each. Pakistan are the most successful with eight gold medals. The first quarter had both teams struggling to improve themselves and Japan did well to counter the Indian forwards. India had a couple of chances including their first penalty corner but Japan's goalkeeper Tukumi Kitagawa blocked Harmanpreet's drag flick. The second quarter looked like going the same way with the Indians looking for inspiration upfront, their attempts to breach the Japanese defence proving futile as the Japanese defended strongly in the final third.

The Tokyo Olympic Games bronze medallists, who are ranked fourth in the world, earned their second penalty corner in this period but Amit Rohidas' shot off an indirect variation sailed over. But five minutes before the half-time hooter, India found some inspiration upfront and a good attack resulted in their first goal. Former skipper Manpreet Singh capitalised on a good attack and struck a powerful reverse-hit home to score India's opener.

After the change of ends, India earned three penalty corners back-to-back and off the third, Harmanpreet Singh slammed home a rebound to make it 2-0. India continued to attack, and with a full-capacity crowd mostly rooting for it, they earned another penalty corner in the 36th minute. Amit Rohidas blasted home a direct drag flick to make it 3-0. **– IANS**

# Bajrang storms out of arena after defeat

Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia cut a sorry figure as he stormed out of the Asian Games wrestling arena after a humiliating defeat in the 65kg free-style third-place match here on Friday. His hurried exit was in stark contrast to the other three Asian Games bronze-winning Indian grapplers who showed some contentment if not pure excitement. Bajrang, who entered the Asian Games after getting exemption from the selection trials, suffered embarrassing defeats in his category to make a medal-less exit from Hangzhou.

Bajrang Punia reacts after losing to Japan's Kaiki Yamaguchi in the men's freestyle 65kg category wrestling match

However, Aman Sehrawat (57kg), Sonam Malik (65kg) and Kiran (76kg) clinched a bronze medal each. After a defeat on technical superiority against Kaiki Yamaguhci of Japan, Punia refused to speak to the waiting media. Punia did not even look at the media, hurrying out of the mixed zone ripping off his wrist wrap. Looking distraught, Punia just slipped out, not willing to talk about what went wrong in his Asian Games campaign despite more than a month-long training in Issyk-kul in Kyrgyzstan. An under-prepared Bajrang began the Asian Games with two easy wins but was clueless against the formidable Iranian Rahman Amouzadkhalili and Yamaguchi. **– PTI**

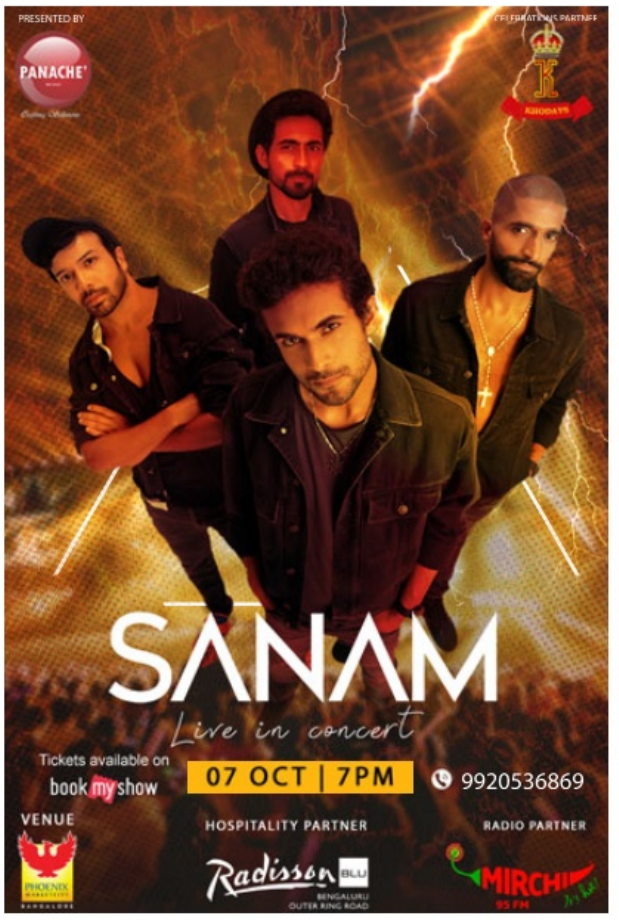
# Men's bridge team upgrades Jakarta bronze to silver

The Indian men's bridge team of Jaggy Shivdasani, Sandeep Thakral, Rajeshwar Tiwari, Sumit Mukherjee, Raju Tolani, and Ajay Khare secured a silver medal in the final on Friday in the ongoing Asian Games.

The men's team final lasted for two days and consisted of six sessions. After claiming a bronze in Jakarta in the 2018 Asian Games, the men's team had an eye on the gold. However, they had to settle for silver after losing to Hong Kong by a score of 238.1-152. On Thursday, the Hong Kong team took a massive lead in the first three sessions to put them in a comfortable situation. The final continued on Friday, with India losing the fourth session to remain behind Hong Kong. Hong Kong claimed 174.1 points whereas India is currently on 123.

Hangzhou Asian Games logo is seen near a deck of cards

India's deficit increased in the fifth session after Hong Kong reached 212.1 points from 80 boards whereas India stood at 140 points. In the final session, Hong Kong registered a victory by 238.1-152 and claimed the gold medal. **– ANI**



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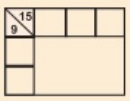
FARNAZ

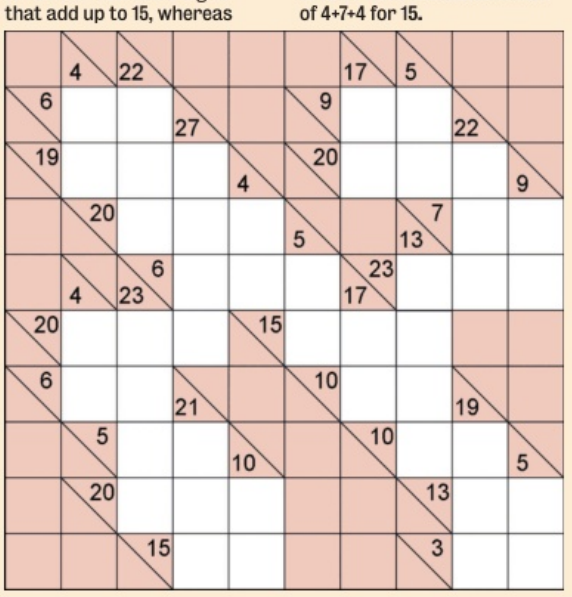
## Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

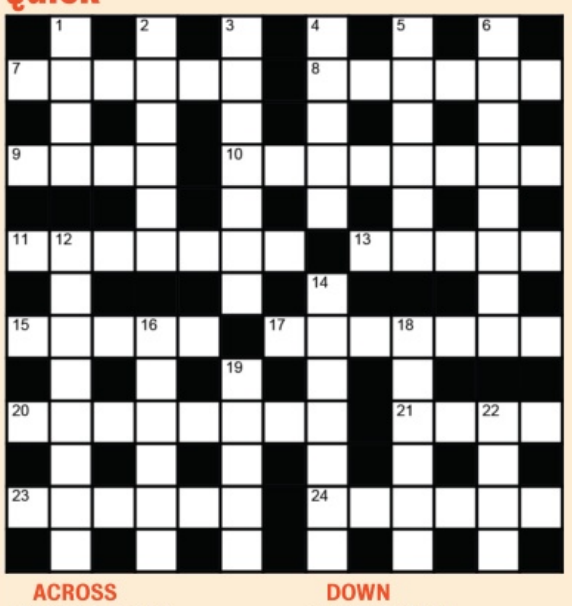



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

7 Large desert (6)
8 Hindu hermitage (6)
9 Our Prime Minister Narendra ___ (4)
10 Support or strengthen, as from beneath (8)
11 Sets fire to (7)
13 Large antelope (5)
15 A sphere–earth for example? (5)
17 Sculpting (7)
20 German physicist, Albert ___ (8)
21 December festival (4)
23 Divulge; make known ? (3,3)
24 Learned man in India (6)

**DOWN**

1 Ring of light (4)
2 Sesame paste (6)
3 Military greetings (7)
4 Bangalore is divided into 243 ____ (5)
5 Fortified wine (6)
6 Set of bells hung in a tower (8)
12 He was a giant for the Lilliputians (8)
14 Snoozes (7)
16 New England port (6)
18 Annoying (6)
19 Defeats (5)
22 Keen (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: W EQUALS C**

BQO WUI'N SMRL QI UJOHLJ-LIN. MN MH NYL EXQNY QI PUNLX-UI MIWY ZLLD UIZ NYLI NYL JOZ.

## Linemaro

If I could rearrange the alphabet, I would put 'U' and 'I' together.

## Mindchow

If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change

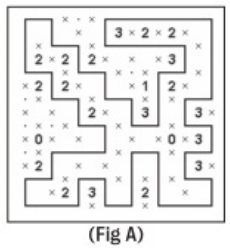
## Joke of the day

If absence makes the heart grow fonder, some people must really love church.

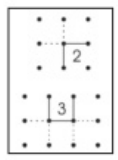
## Loop

**Rules**

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

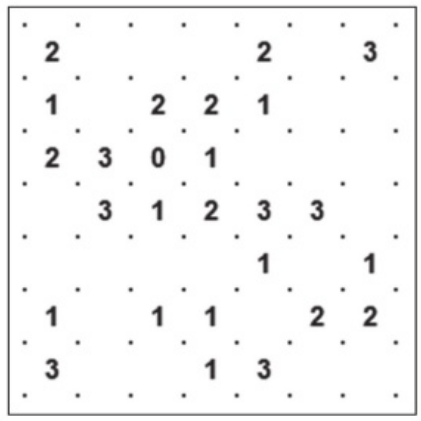


(Fig B) Not Allowed

**How to begin:**

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | | | | |
| 7 | | | | K |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | |

**ACROSS**

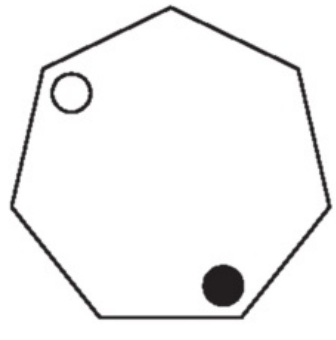
1 CU Mrs; 6 As Lao; 7 UK Aim; 8 Nag me; 9 Reply

**DOWN**

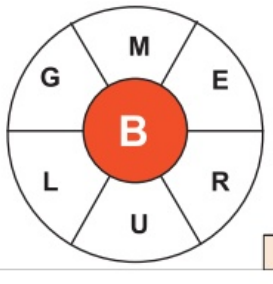
1 Lumps; 2 Am col; 3 Ray in; 4 Agues; 5 Me ark

## Mensapuzzle

At each stage the black dot moves three corners clockwise and the white dot moves four corners anti-clockwise. After how many stages will both dots be together in the same corner?



## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

**10** Average; **12** Good; **14** Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5 | 8 | 7 | | 6 | 3 | 9 | |
| | | 9 | 5 | | 4 | 7 | | |
| | 3 | | | | | | 4 | |
| | 7 | | | 8 | | | 1 | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | 7 |
| | 4 | | | 1 | | | 2 | |
| | 6 | | | | | | 5 | |
| | | 5 | 2 | | 1 | 4 | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 4 | | 3 | 9 | 8 | |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



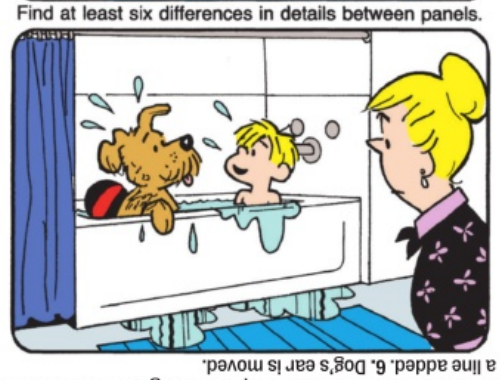
Easy = 19
2 2 6 9

Medium = 9
2 5 6 7

Hard = 32
2 4 8 3

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



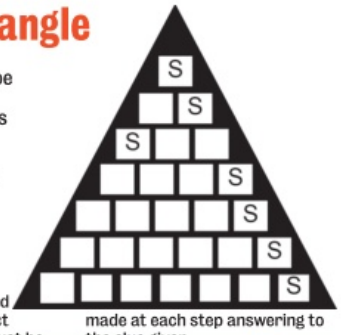
**Differences:** 1. Puddle is moved. 2. Ball is different. 3. Paw is moved. 4. Water drop is missing. 5. Front of tub has a line added. 6. Dog's ear is moved.

## Riddler

Add a different set of three letters to each of the following words to create a list of new words. The three-letter additions all have something in common. What are the new words, and how are the three-letter additions related? Ease, Gin, Hem, Ice, On, Opus, Rile, Tic

## Alpha triangle

1 Curved letter
2 Form of verb to be
3 Moral offence
4 Charged particles
5 Mint output
6 Descendants
7 Your uncle's kids




Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

## Redeye by Mel Casson

HOW DO YOU LIKE MY NEW OUTFIT, CHIEF?
HEY! GREAT! I'VE GOT TO GET ONE OF THOSE!
THUNK
Wates/Casson
7-13
YOU CAN BORROW THIS ONE UNTIL THE HUNTING SEASON IS OVER!

## Bizarrotrip

You're officially on the team, and everything I do or say is now legally inadmissible.
Wayno & Piraro 7-27-23
N.B.A. N.D.A.
BIZARRO.COM

## Diamond Lil

## Hart of the city

GOOOOOOD MORNING, PHILLY MIDDLE! THESE ARE YOUR MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS!
THE ANNUAL DANCE IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, SO SIGN UP FOR THE PLANNING COMMITTEE TODAY!
I SHOULD JOIN! IT MIGHT HELP MY CHANCES OF BEING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT!
WOW, YOU'RE REALLY THINKING AHEAD.

## Crankshaft

OVERALL... I THINK THAT OUR INVESTMENTS ARE DOING PRETTY WELL...
AND I SEE MUCH BETTER DAYS AHEAD.
THE PROBLEM WITH YOU, GEORGE, IS THAT YOU'RE TOO OPTIMYSTICAL.
I THINK YOU MEAN...
AGAIN... RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.

## Mutts

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, blessings from elders will give you confidence. You shall follow your intuition before taking any initiatives that will help you in your work. Your intuition will help you gain more in terms of finance. You will plan to visit a religious place with your family members. You shall control your arrogance to enjoy your domestic life. Students will expect good results with the help of destiny.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Today, before the forenoon, you may feel happy and enjoy your work. From the afternoon on, negative feelings will make you dull, which will affect your professional life. You will also expect some domestic arguments. You should avoid lending money to anyone; it might not be recoverable easily. You will analyse yourself and figure out your negativities. Occult sciences will attract you today in terms of study.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You have been in a very good mood since this morning. You will be more romantic, and it will bring harmony into our domestic lives. Your patience will help you do your best professionally. You will see some coordination with your colleagues and business partner.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
You will be successful in controlling leakage and worthless expenditures, which will boost your bank balance. You should be careful about a kid's health. Singles can make unexpected progress in terms of marriage. Persons related to travel, diplomats, and the supply chain will do better. You must be careful with stomach-related health issues.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, your plans will not work on a professional front, which will make you arrogant. You should try to avoid making important decisions in terms of investment and relationships. Couples and lovebirds should try to avoid making arguments to maintain harmony in their relationships. Students should not choose short cuts in their studies.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, the moon will make you more sensitive and emotional. You should avoid investing in real estate or other assets. You should take care of your parents' health. You will expect some delay in your work, and you will face it with patience. On the professional front, you should not be indecisive.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you will be glad; you will be able to maintain a balance between your earnings and expenditures, which will boost your finances. Your network will help you implement your plans. Your siblings and subordinate staff will be more helpful today. Plan to visit elders or religious places.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, your energy level will be high. So it will make you happy and optimistic to fulfil your desires with the help of hard work. You will plan to go on outings with friends and family to share your happiness. Students will see good news in terms of studying.

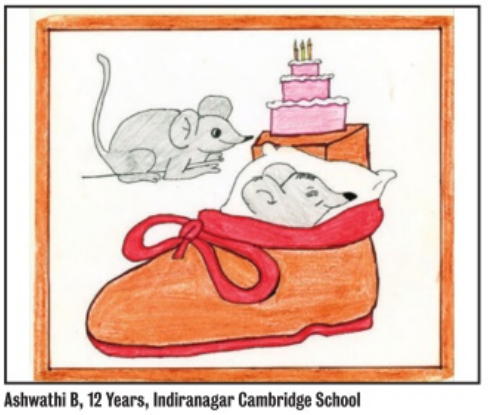
**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today until late afternoon is not good; you may feel unhappy and become nervous, but after noon onwards, you will be more happy. Internal vitality will boost your self-confidence. You should avoid carelessness in making decisions in terms of finance, profession, and studies. Sometimes, you may face self-respect issues with your spouse. You need to keep your patience to avoid converting happy moments into bad ones. Love birds will plan for short trips.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, your tendency to overspend will affect your savings. You should be careful while expressing yourself at work and on the domestic front as well. You need to avoid lending money. You are advised to make important decisions about real estate and other asset issues. You must try to avoid a tendency to deviate from your responsibilities.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, at the social get-together, you will re-establish your network, which will give you benefits in the near future. Natives related to glamour, art, and fashion will plan to do something new in terms of their profession. Students will perform better today in terms of study. Love birds will enjoy their happy moments.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today will be a busy day for you in terms of work. Overload may make you tired, but you will enjoy your work. Your will is good. You will not spend money on worthless stuff. You will be more polite with your family, friends, and loved ones. You may also get some good news from family members.

## KIDZONE



Ashwathi B, 12 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Kavitha Patel, 13 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

## SOLUTIONS

**BULL'S EYE** berg, blue, blur, bugle, bugler, bulge, burg, burgle, burl, grub, GRUMBLE, lumber, rumble, umber

**RIDDLER** Decease, Margin, Mayhem, Novice, Apron, Octopus, Febrile, Septic. Each of the three-letter additions is the common three-letter abbreviation for the months of the year (DEC, MAR, MAY, etc).

**SOLVE IN 1M**
8 - 0 = -
5 - 8 - 8 = -
8 + 3 + 5 - 8 = -

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | C | R | U | M |
| L | O | A | S | A |
| U | M | I | A | K |
| M | A | N | G | E |
| P | L | Y | E | R |

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | E | P | T | B | A | C | K | R | E | D | S | | | |
| | | O | | A | | A | | A | | E | | | | |
| | S | A | H | A | R | A | | A | S | H | R | A | M | |
| | | O | | A | | I | | D | | E | | D | | |
| E | S | T | E | | A | T | A | L | A | N | T | A | | |
| | | E | | A | | L | | C | | O | | F | | T |
| R | E | G | A | I | N | E | D | | E | I | R | E | | |
| | | A | | C | | P | | U | | L | | S | | O |
| A | C | N | E | | P | U | L | L | | S | O | F | F | |
| | | A | | M | | D | | R | A | F | | | | |
| G | U | E | S | S | | L | E | A | S | T | | | | |
| | | A | | N | | N | | A | | | | | | |
| K | E | N | | K | A | N | G | | | | | | | |
| U | R | G | E | N | T | L | Y | | S | A | L | A | | |
| | | M | | P | | C | | O | | | | | | |
| B | L | E | D | K | O | H | I | N | O | O | R | | | |
| | | L | | N | U | D | E | S | | L | | R | | T |
| A | C | N | E | | P | U | L | L | S | O | F | F | | |

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | | T | | S | | W | | S | | C | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | A | H | A | R | A | | A | S | H | R | A | M | | |
| | | O | | A | | I | | D | | E | | | | |
| L | E | T | O | U | T | | P | A | N | D | I | T | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | I | N | S | T | E | I | N | | X | M | A | S | | |
| | | L | | O | | B | | T | | E | | | | |
| G | L | O | B | E | | C | A | R | V | I | N | G | | |
| | | U | | S | | G | | O | | | | | | |
| I | G | N | I | T | E | S | | N | Y | A | L | A | | |
| | | M | | O | | T | | S | | R | | L | | |
| M | O | D | I | | U | N | D | E | R | P | I | N | | |
| | | L | | H | | L | | R | | E | | R | | |
| S | A | H | A | R | A | | A | S | H | R | A | M | | |

**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 6 |
| 9 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 3 |
| 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| 5 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 9 |
| 8 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| 2 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| 6 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 1 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| 4 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
They will never appear together in the same corner as in a heptagon three corners clockwise is the same as four corners anti-clockwise.

**QUOTE UNCODE**
You can't live on amusement. It is the froth on water - an inch deep and then the mud.

**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
S, Is, Sin, Ions, Coins, Scions, Cousins.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
2 + 9 + 2 + 6 = 19
Medium
5 x 2 - 7 + 6 = 9
Hard
3 x 4 x 2 + 8 = 32

**LOOP**

**KAKURO**

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**Brace for action**— As 'Tiger 3' release nears, Salman Khan has piqued the audience's interest in different ways. After sharing a special message, Salman has now dropped an update about what to expect from the action scenes in the film

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# Vacation mode

## Sara Ali Khan amuses fans with vacation video

Sara Ali Khan is enjoying her London trip with her mother, Amrita Singh. A video that surfaced online shows Sara struggling with her luggage as she boards a train with the assistance of a gentleman. In the video, Sara says, "Oh my god, too many bags. I really need a lot of help. My mum is videoing this and not helping."

What has left netizens astounded is not just Sara's humorous commentary but the sheer size and number of her bags. Fans and followers on social media have been left wondering about the contents of her colossal luggage during a vacation. One fan commented, "Ridiculous amount of luggage," while another empathetically noted, "Struggle is real!!!" A third commenter pointed out, "The Western boy helping her doesn't bother her; she is a Bollywood star." One fan even humoured the situation with the phrase, "Sara itna sara!"

Sara Ali Khan had been travelling from Paris to London when the amusing video was captured. She shared the clip on her Instagram and a series of photos showcasing her delightful moments in the 'City of Lights.' The pictures featured Sara posing outside her hotel and enjoying an ice cream, adding a touch of elegance and leisure to her European sojourn.

In her Instagram caption, Sara recounted her Parisian experiences, from savouring almond milk cappuccinos to strolling by the Louvre, indulging in chocolate and pop-up art galleries, and sharing gym sessions and jam binges. She also cherished the sunsets and moon rises behind the Eiffel Tower, afternoon strolls with her mother, and exploring bookstores like Shakespeare & Co.

Sara Ali Khan's recent cinematic success in 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke' alongside Vicky Kaushal has further elevated her status in Bollywood. —ETimes

# BTS buzz

Fighter is one of the most anticipated films of 2024. Names like Hrithik Roshan, Deepika Padukone and Anil Kapoor headline it. A few days ago, Deepika and Hrithik travelled to Italy to shoot a couple of songs for the film, and since then, BTS pictures of Deepika have surfaced on social media. It is now reported that the two superstars have concluded their Italy schedule and will return soon.

Deepika was spotted posing with her team members as the schedule wrapped, and the pictures have gone viral.

The pictures are surfacing on Deepika Padukone's fan pages. In one picture, she is seen posing with Augustus Pereira, a choreographer Bosco Martis' team member, as she flashes her million-dollar smile. She wore a white striped shirt with baggy denim jeans and had sunglasses on. Sharing the click, Augustus wrote, "And it's a wrap for Italy schedule. Thanks @deepikapadukone @marflix_pictures." Meanwhile, another picture shows Deepika posing for a selfie with another team member in Italy as she wraps up the shoot.

A picture of Hrithik and Deepika posing with Siddharth Anand, Mamta Anand, Bosco Martis, and others had also surfaced while enjoying a coffee break.

Of the two songs picturised in Italy, one is a romantic ballad, while the other is a dance number. Fighter is scheduled to release in theaters on January 25, 2024.

After this, Deepika will soon join Ajay Devgn and her husband Ranveer Singh for Rohit Shetty's Singham Again. She is the latest addition to the Cop Universe, being the first female cop in Rohit Shetty's world. The film also features Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, Jackie Shroff and Arjun Kapoor. —ETimes

# Romantic comedy

**ABHIRAMACHANDRA**
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Nagendra Ganiga
- **ACTORS** Ratha Kiran, Siddu Moolimani, Natya Ranga, Shivani Rai, Archana Kottige
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 112 minutes

Abhiramachandra" revolves around the lives of three young individuals: Abhi (Ratha Kiran) from Kundapura, Rama (Siddu Moolimani) from Mandya, and Chandra (Natya Ranga) from Raichur, all trying to make ends meet in bustling Bengaluru. Abhi, an orphan with a childhood love story, is on a quest to reunite with his lost love, Aruni, whose parents relocated to another city. Meanwhile, a cheerful cab driver, Rama, harbours his romantic tale, seeking to reconnect with his beloved. Chandra, the PUBG enthusiast working as a cashier, is also smitten by a girl he met in the gaming world. To their surprise, they discover that they all share a connection with the same girl, but the director throws in a captivating twist in the climax. "Abhiramachandra" delves into the mysteries surrounding Aruni, Sneha, and the fates of Abhi and Aruni.

The narrative's frequent flashbacks can overwhelm the story's flow. Nonetheless, Ratha Kiran delivers a compelling performance as a lover patiently waiting to reunite with his childhood sweetheart. Siddu Moolimani, portraying the mischievous youth from Mandya, infuses humour into the film, particularly in his romantic pursuit of the energetic daughter of a doctor (S Narayan). Natya Ranga, embodying the PUBG addict who loses his cashier job, impresses with his dialogue delivery and convincing portrayal. Shivani Rai adds a touch of charm to her role, while Archana Kottige, though brief, makes a notable appearance. Veena Sundar and Sundar Veena shine as the landlord couple.

Ravi Basrur's music complements the film effectively, with hummable songs that enhance the overall experience.

"Abhiramachandra" is a delightful watch for those searching for a romantic comedy with unexpected twists.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

# Superstitious tale

**AADE NAM GOD**
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** P H Vishwanath
- **ACTORS** B Suresha, Sarika Rao, Anoop Shoonya, Manjunath Jambe, Anit Bopannalli, and Nataraj Bhat
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 133 minutes

Veteran director P H Vishwanath marks his long-awaited return after a seven-year hiatus with "Aade Nam God" (Goat is our God). Renowned for his work on the Kannada film "Panchama Veda," Vishwanath takes a rather unconventional route by delving into the world of superstition in this film. However, the subject may seem out of place and struggle to resonate with a broader audience.

The film's storyline centres on a goat that inadvertently finds itself in a village inhabited by Daamu, also known as Damodar (Nataraj Bhat), along with Tukarama (Anit Boppanalli) and Shivalingu (Manjunath Jambe). These three men depend on the generosity of others for their sustenance and share their living space with their hardworking friend, Thippesh (Anoop Shoonya), who firmly believes in the value of honest labour. Daamu, Tukaram, and Shivalingu make a scheme to exploit unsuspecting villagers by claiming that the goat possesses miraculous powers capable of fulfilling people's dreams and wishes when kept in their homes overnight. Their plan proves successful as they amass considerable wealth, eventually building a temple honouring the miraculous goat.

The narrative takes an intriguing turn with the introduction of Vastu Guruji (B Suresha), a man struggling to determine whether his home is vastu-compliant. His marital troubles escalate when his wife runs away with a plumber.Maathe (Sarika Rao) enters this mix, attempting to assert control over the goat temple. She advises the trio to appoint a prominent figure as the temple's head to avoid harassment from the muzrai department. In a surprising twist, Vastu Swamiji assumes control of the temple, ultimately side lining the trio and Mathaji. The film reaches its climax as we witness the fates of these characters unfold.

"Aade Nam God" is a peculiar cinematic journey that may pique the interest of open to films that defy conventional logic.

—Y Maheswara Reddy